

GREG GREEN, PRINCIPAL

As I reflect on my time at St Peter's, I feel incredibly grateful for the warm welcome I received upon joining the school community in Term Two. From the moment I arrived, I was embraced by our wonderful staff and students, making the transition into the role of Principal both smooth and uplifting.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Justin Tuohy for his strong leadership of St Peter's; I had the pleasure of walking into a well-oiled machine. I particularly noticed a united and positive staff, as well as a school who lead the way in terms of stewardship and work health and safety, a testament to my predecessors.

The spirit of St Peter's is truly special. Our students bring joy and curiosity to every corner of the school, and our staff demonstrate unwavering dedication and care in all they do. I've been deeply moved by the support and kindness shown by our parental community, whose partnership is vital to the success and wellbeing of our school.

One of the most cherished events on our school calendar is the Grandparents' Morning Tea, now in its fourth year.

The day began with a beautiful Mass led by our Year Five students, who were joined by their grandparents in a celebration of faith and family. Following the mass, grandparents and their grandchildren gathered for morning tea, sharing stories, laughter, and connection.

We're proud to share that our Physical Education program continues to thrive. Students are actively engaged in a wide range of sports and activities, showing strong progress in fitness, coordination, and teamwork.

Participation rates are high, and feedback from students reflects genuine enjoyment. Our inclusive approach ensures every child feels encouraged and supported. Recent sporting events have highlighted both skill development and school spirit.

Next week, we'll be hosting our End-of-Year Concert. Families are invited to bring a picnic dinner at 5pm, with the concert beginning at 6pm. Hosting

the concert in the evening allows us to welcome all families, grandparents and loved ones in a single, joyful celebration

There are many programs and initiatives that make St Peter's such a dynamic and engaging place to learn and grow. One standout is URSTRONG, a friendship strategy-based program that equips students with tools to navigate the complexities of friendship and build healthy, respectful relationships. I wandered into the MiniLit and MacqLit tutoring spaces and found two exceptional literacy intervention programs that support students in developing strong foundational reading skills and confidence in their learning. Additionally, our Bond Maths program plays a vital role in developing students' numeracy literacy, helping them build essential mathematical understanding and problem-solving skills in a structured and supportive way.

Our Catholic Performing Arts program is another shining example of the vibrancy of our school. With a great choir, talented band, and expressive dancers, our students have many opportunities to showcase their creativity and passion. The wealth of talent across all year levels is truly inspiring and adds joyful energy to our school community.

The AQUINAS program offers students a unique dimension to explore, question, and research. It encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and deeper engagement with learning—empowering students to stretch their minds and discover new possibilities beyond the standard curriculum. These are only a few of the exceptional initiatives flourishing within our school.

MATT NETTLETON, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (Religion Education)

It is a pleasure to share with you some of the major projects and developments taking place at St Peter's Primary School as we continue to enhance our learning environment for all students.

Canteen Refurbishment - we now have a fully refurbished, state-of-the-art commercial kitchen that meets all required health and safety regulations, and supports the needs of our large and growing school community. This upgrade not only ensures compliance, but also improves functionality and

efficiency for our canteen team. Thank you to the OSH Committee for their ongoing support and generous contributions in bringing this project to life.

Redevelopment of Early Childhood playground - construction will begin during the January holidays, with the playground ready for students by the start of Term One, 2026. This space has been designed with strong input from both students and teachers, ensuring it reflects their needs and aspirations. The design also aligns with the ELFY outcomes, allowing for outdoor play that meaningfully supports early learning, wellbeing and whole-child development.

Over the next 12 months - our priority remains ensuring all buildings across the campus are safe, compliant and well-maintained. We also have new furniture budgeted for both our Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms, supporting contemporary learning practices. In addition, some cosmetic upgrades are planned for several Year 5 rooms to refresh and modernise the learning environment. These projects reflect our ongoing commitment to providing the very best for our students—safe, engaging, and inspiring spaces that support high-quality learning and wellbeing.

2025 Sacramental Program - we continue to work in close partnership with the Parish to ensure our students and their families are supported with the knowledge and understanding they need to fully prepare for each Sacrament. Our Sacramental Program follows the sequence of Reconciliation in Year Three, First Holy Communion in Year Four, and Confirmation in Year Six.

In 2025, 289 students participated in the Sacramental Program, along with additional students who joined us from the Parish. This reflects the strong Catholic identity of our school community and the trust families place in St Peter's to guide their children on their faith journey.

Thank you to our Sacramental Coordinator, Marina Tassone, for her dedication, organisation and unwavering commitment to ensuring every child experiences a meaningful and memorable Sacramental celebration. Marina, together with her husband Mario, continues to bring the church to life for our students through her passion and service.

Each Mass this year was a wonderful opportunity for our community to gather in faith. Celebrating with the candidates and their families allowed us to share in their joy and express our ongoing support and congratulations. I extend my sincere gratitude to Father Jeronimo, the teachers involved, and all who contributed to these special celebrations. To our volunteers who assisted with preparations, the choir for their uplifting music, and all who attended—thank you for helping make each occasion truly memorable.

To our Sacramental candidates, may they continue to grow in faith, love, and wisdom as they walk their journey with Christ.

Tanya and I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Justin Tuohy. Although his tenure here was quite short, the impact he had for us as Assistance Principals was enormous. He truly demonstrated a Christ-Centred leader, consistently demonstrating kindness, compassion, empathy and support to all this he led.

Thank you once again for your continued partnership and support. Together, we ensure St Peter's remains a vibrant, forward-thinking, and nurturing school for all children.

TANYA HOLLAND, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (Admin)

Cluster Muster - during Term Four, we gather as a staff to look carefully at our school data, including standardised assessments. This examination then helps to guide our planning and goal setting for the following year. Thank you to Jo Carbone and Shelley Gaglia for their outstanding leadership throughout this process, and all staff who engaged in rigorous discussion. Our staff's ongoing engagement in reflective practice is testament to their commitment to excellence.

NAPLAN - one of the assessments that we look at during Cluster Muster is NAPLAN. In 2025, student achievement in NAPLAN was reported using four proficiency standards for each assessment area. The four proficiency levels are: exceeding, strong, developing and needs additional support. Years Three and Five students completed assessments in: Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Numeracy.

In 2025, we are proud to celebrate NAPLAN results showing that St Peter's Primary School scores above CEWA schools, State schools and the National averages in almost all areas of assessment. Whilst these results are a celebration, they have also allowed us to identify areas for potential focus and growth.

Literacy - as part of the process of refining what we do to ensure the best outcomes for our students, this year, we spent time exploring and trialling several Literacy initiatives. Thank you especially to the Pre Primary team, Year Two team, Jo Carbone and Jessica Healy for their engagement in this process. We are pleased to announce that two new literacy programs will be introduced across the whole school in 2025, with staff training taking place in January.

UFLI will be introduced for students from Pre Primary to Year Three, and Word Origins will be introduced for Years Four to Six students. UFLI is a program focused on improving literacy outcomes for children through research-based instruction, with a focus on phonics, reading skills, spelling and letter formation. Lessons follow a structured sequence so that students build skills step-by-step. Students participate in a range of multisensory activities including visual, auditory, and kinaesthetic techniques.

The Word Origins program aims to strengthen vocabulary and comprehension skills, by engaging curiosity about the evolution of language. Students are supported to decode and spell complex words and build upon their reading and writing skills. We are very excited for these programs to take shape in 2026.

Intervention - St Peter's currently runs two reading Intervention programs, MiniLit and MacquLit. I would like to thank Gemma Tsang, Jo Maranta, Bronwyn Ryan, Anna Voisey and Samantha Arnold for their leadership of these programs. We will continue to offer these intervention programs again in 2026 starting in Term Two, with testing taking place during Term One.

Similarly, we have a wonderful team of staff who support our students with Numeracy Intervention, led by Emily Welsh and supported by Jackson

Lamb and Jodie Baynham. Our EMU (Extending Maths Understanding) program is accessible for those students in Year One who have shown signs of Mathematical vulnerability. This program targets Counting, Place Value, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. This program will continue to be implemented for identified students in 2026.

In 2025, St Peter's launched the Bond Blocks Program for identified students in Years Two to Six. The program builds on maths skills such as doubling, halving and Bonds to 10 and 20. Students will have short, sharp, targeted sessions with the focus being on basic facts used for addition and subtraction. Bond Blocks intervention will resume in 2026, following testing.

AQUINAS - the AQUINAS program is a wonderful opportunity designed to meet the advanced learning needs of students who demonstrate high academic or creative abilities. AQUINAS aims to provide more challenging and enriching learning experiences beyond the standard curriculum. This often includes advanced coursework, creative projects, critical thinking activities, or opportunities to pursue individual interests in depth. The students identified for the AQUINAS program are withdrawn from the classroom for two lessons a week across Years Three to Six. AQUINAS is available to students identified as high potential students based on various criteria, such as standardised test scores, teacher recommendations and academic performance. Thank you to Julia O'Meara for the incredible work she does with these students.

Specialists – throughout 2025, our specialist offerings in Music, Italian, Visual Arts, Dance/Drama, Science and Physical Education have once again added depth and vibrancy to our students' learning. These programs equipped our children with valuable skills and a wide range of experiences, nurturing their curiosity and inspiring a genuine enthusiasm for discovery. Thank you to all our specialist teachers for their dedication and passion this year. We would like to especially acknowledge and thank Signora Costa for her enthusiasm and love of sharing the Italian language with our students. In 2026, we are excited to begin AUSLAN as our new language offering and look forward to seeing our students engage with this wonderful learning opportunity.

Social Emotional – once again this year, St Peter’s students have built upon their social emotion skills and literacy, supported by the Kimochis and UR Strong programs. These programs support students with identifying their own emotions, building resilience, developing the skills to self-regulate, identify healthy friendships and manage friendship fires with confidence and respect. Thank you to Shelley Gaglia for continuing to lead our staff in this space.

Outdoor Learning – quality Catholic Education, along with the Early Years Learning Framework, outlines the importance of providing educational opportunities in both indoor and outdoor spaces. In 2025, our teachers embraced many opportunities to go beyond the classroom walls and engage in learning in nature. We would like to specifically acknowledge the Year Two team that has introduced Bush School in Term Four, seeing our students immersed in learning experiences in an outdoor setting. We are excited to see these opportunities and experiences continue to flourish in 2026.

The areas discussed are just a snapshot of the incredible opportunities our St Peter’s students have. This is due to the passion, dedication and commitment of St Peter’s staff who continually go ‘above and beyond’ to provide exceptional education experiences. Thank you to our whole St Peter’s staff for continually demonstrating unity and a desire for growth and excellence. Your efforts are truly appreciated

Personally, Matt and I have been very fortunate to work closely with two outstanding Principals this year, one of which we would like to acknowledge now.

Greg, you joined Team Pete this year with such a calm, kind and friendly demeanour. You epitomise the TRUE values and our students, staff and school community have been incredibly blessed to have your support and learn so much from you this year. The power of prayer cards and a good joke and a laugh will be your legacy. We will miss you and hope to have you back to visit many times over the coming years as you FINALLY, hopefully, get to begin your retirement.

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In the final week of term, next year's class placements will be confirmed, and all students will participate in our transition session on Monday, 8 December. Many factors are thoughtfully considered when balancing classes, including academics, gender, social dynamics, and emotional needs. We aim to support each child's growth into a confident and adaptable individual, and meeting new classmates is a valuable experience that broadens their perspectives and enriches their lives. Our staff carefully consider each class composition to foster positive, nurturing learning environments where all students can thrive. Together, let's encourage our children to embrace change, make new friends, and flourish in their educational journey.

As we say goodbye to 2025, we also bid farewell to several members of our school community who have contributed immensely over the years. These individuals have not only impacted our students' lives, but have also played vital roles in our school's growth and success. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours as they embark on new journeys.

We officially farewell

- Alda de Costa
- Eliza Hardie
- Christine Williams
- Madeline Vukinovac
- Natalie Clemente (currently on maternity leave)
- Leanne Traynor Dutton, who is taking leave for 2026 and returning in 2027

In 2026, we welcome several returning and new staff:

- Paulette Aquino returning from leave
- Lianna Locantro, returning from maternity leave
- Kim Dixon – Auslan Teacher
- Sarah La Galia – Auslan Teacher
- Jacob Carr – Physical Education Teacher
- Jessica – Galizia - Early Years Music Teacher

- TBC – in 2026 a school nurse to the St Peter’s team, this is a new position which we believe will further support the health and wellbeing of our students.

Congratulations to a number of staff who will be taking on new roles in 2026:

- Nikki Nayler - Literacy Coordinator
- Shelley Gaglia – Early Years Cluster Leader
- Aleshia Procopis – Junior Cluster Leader

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to our School Advisory Council and our Parents and Friends Association. These groups are pillars of support and wisdom, offering guidance, energy, and a shared commitment to the growth of our school. Their contributions behind the scenes and in the spotlight have made a real difference.

I express my sincere thanks to our School Advisory Council – Deanna Exeter, Nicole Edwards, Keith D'Sa, Matt Ferrinda, Philip Mallozzi, Sarah Maher, Marie Armstrong (P&F Representative), Father Jeronimo (Parish Priest) and Hilda Tansley (Parish Representative).

To members of the Parents and Friends Association, you are to be congratulated for your efforts in community building and fundraising. My thanks especially to our office bearers Marie Armstrong, Christine Williams and Steve Catania, and to General Members Dave Dawes, Michelle Broadbent and Jonine Barouky, who, along with the invaluable support provided by other parent volunteers, have ensured that our P&F had another successful year. I thank all for their effort, time and commitment to the school.

I would especially like to acknowledge Christine Williams and Nicole Edwards who will not be returning to the P&F and the SAC in 2026. I thank them for their time and dedication in contributing to our school community.

A special mention must go to Father Jeronimo, our parish priest and a cherished friend to the school. His presence, pastoral care, and spiritual leadership have enriched our community in countless ways. We are blessed to walk alongside him in faith and friendship.

I was also incredibly fortunate to have worked alongside two outstanding Assistant Principals—Matt Nettleton and Tanya Holland. Their meticulous approach to their professional duties, combined with their strong pastoral care of both students and staff, ensures that the school remains a safe, nurturing, and well-organised environment for all.

To the teachers who have undertaken Curriculum portfolios throughout the year, thank you for your classroom insights and your efforts to unite us in achieving our school's goals. A heartfelt thanks also goes to Gemma Tsang for her work in co-ordinating learning support and supporting students with special needs, along with Melanie Rowe and Tarryn Scher for their expertise in this area. To our broader non-teaching staff—Tony Hunter, Liz Cunningham, Georgie Bertoldo, Kelly Dalton, Sharon Zanotti, Tammy Hunter, Mark Emery, Marina Tassone and Janine De Toro—your energy, dedication, and support are deeply appreciated.

I have a deep appreciation for the staff, who are not only committed to delivering high-quality inquiry-based education, but also to nurturing the spiritual well-being of the students in their care. They are an outstanding group of individuals, and I feel privileged to have encountered such a passionate and dedicated team.

I acknowledge and thank all our parents for their commitment to our school family and for their crucial support of our home/school partnership. Without this support, we would not be able to achieve all that we do achieve for our children. We are excited to continue working together to bring even more enjoyable and rewarding opportunities for our students in 2026!

As we close the year, I want to wish all members of our St Peter's Primary School community a happy and holy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year. May this festive season bring peace, joy, and renewal to you and your families.

Thank you.